

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-03 L-02 ABF-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

FBO-01 A-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 280530Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1482

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3009

LIMDIS

FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, JO, US

SUBJECT: RESTITUTION PAYMENTS FOR USIS CENTER

1. YOU WILL RECALL WHEN WE MET IN FEBRUARY I DISCUSSED THE REOPENING OF THE USIS CENTER IN AMMAN. SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE MOVED AHEAD AND I UNDERSTAND THAT USIA IS FAVORABLY INCLINED AND MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY TO PUT THE WORK IN HAND.

2. AT THE SAME TIME YOU EXPRESSED YOUR OWN CONCERN THAT WE RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF RESTITUTION OF THE CENTER WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN 1971.

3. I HAVE HAD AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI AND HE ASSURES ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR THE RECORD ON THIS ISSUE. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT WE WISH TO REOPEN OUR CENTER AND THAT RESTITUTION IS PART OF THAT PROCESS.

4. I HAVE NOW REVIEWED ALL THE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION
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AVAILABLE. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SEEK RESTITUTION

AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ARRANGE A SETTLEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN WHICH APPROACHES THE FULL AMOUNT OF OUR CLAIM OF \$280 THOUSAND, BUT IS ALSO GEARED TO THE REOPENING OF THE CENTER.

5. WITH YOUR SUPPORT I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN A SETTLEMENT FOR \$180 THOUSAND COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS: TEN YEARS RENTAL OF OUR PRESENT BUILDING WHICH WILL BE CONVERTED INTO THE NEW CENTER AT \$120 THOUSAND AND \$60 THOUSAND FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW CENTER DIVIDED ROUGHLY \$40 THOUSAND FOR BOOKS AND \$20 THOUSAND FOR CONSTRUCTION AND FURNITURE COSTS. THIS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE \$10 THOUSAND ALREADY ALLOCATED BY USIA FOR REMODELING, FOR WHICH BIDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED.

6. THE ABOVE POSITION WOULD BE OUR OPENING AND CLOSING POSITION FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD QUOTE BARGAIN UNQUOTE WITH THEM ON THIS QUESTION AND I THINK THAT THEY AND WE BOTH NOW FEEL STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT CLOSING THE BOOKS ON THIS PROBLEM THAT AN EFFORT ON OUR PART ALONG THE LINES OF THE ABOVE WOULD HAVE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

7. IF YOU AND THE DEPARTMENT AGREE, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO GET THIS UNDERWAY.
PICKERING

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